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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 664
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Thomas W. Balls for his outstanding contributions to the Nashville Auto Diesel College and to Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the elected members of the state of Tennessee should honor those exemplary individuals whose intense dedication and unprecedented devotion have had a significant impact on this great state; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Balls is one such estimable individual who is most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, he began his meritorious career with the Nashville Auto Diesel College in June of 1946, giving tours, enrolling students and handling collections and disbursements for the business office; and

WHEREAS, at the time, Thomas Balls also served with acumen and acuity as a Methodist minister at a small church off Charlotte Avenue in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, as the school continued to grow, Thomas stopped his church ministry and devoted his time to the school on a full-time basis; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Balls continued his education and received his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and was subsequently promoted to registrar at the college; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Balls' exemplary job performance as registrar paved the way for his appointment to the presidency of Nashville Auto Diesel College in 1977; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure, Thomas Balls has played an integral part in many of the improvements the Nashville Auto Diesel College has experienced, including the consolidation of the campus at one location, the construction of 10 buildings on the campus, the erection of a \$2 million dollar NADC Technical Center and foundation of the Nashville Auto Diesel College Graduate Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Balls also pioneered the effort to integrate the Nashville Auto Diesel College for all students of any race, creed, color or national origin; and

WHEREAS, his stellar efforts have resulted in over 50 foreign countries sending students to study at the College and the school's receipt of two military contracts; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Thomas Balls was promoted to Chief Executive Officer of the school; and

WHEREAS, under his sagacious leadership, the Nashville Auto Diesel College has grown to nearly 2000 students for the 1997-1998 year, distinguishing it as one of the largest post-secondary career colleges in the nation; and

WHEREAS, currently, the Nashville Auto Diesel College is the largest private, post-secondary vocational school in Tennessee, having graduated over 40,000 technicians; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause in their hectic deliberations to specially recognize the accomplishments of this exemplary gentleman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Thomas W. Balls and his numerous outstanding contributions to the Nashville Auto Diesel College, and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.